



Bangui Declaration



on

the joint position of the ministers responsible for the environment and forests of Central African states with a view to preparations for the negotiations on the new post-Kyoto climate regime as of 2012

We, the ministers responsible for forests and the environment in the Member States of the Commission for the Forests of Central Africa (COMIFAC), meeting on 10 September 2008 at Bangui in the Central African Republic

Being aware that

- Central Africa, which is home to the world's second largest area of tropical forest, with unique forest ecosystems, **must adopt and/or strengthen its joint position** for the negotiations on the post-Kyoto climate regime, because its forests play an important part in regulating the global climate;
- The scientific conclusions of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) advocates including tropical forests in the post-Kyoto regime;
- With a view to COP 15 to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, it is essential to strengthen the regional group of negotiators on issues relating to climate change within COMIFAC / the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) parallel to efforts in other regions of Africa and of the world;

Realising that

- The Executive Secretariat of COMIFAC with the support of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) is already involved in preparations for Climate Focal Points in the Central African region for negotiations on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

Being convinced that

- Only a concerted and coordinated sub-regional approach among the governments of Central African states and with the support of bilateral and multilateral partners can guarantee that the interests of the sub-region are taken into account in the negotiations on a post-Kyoto climate regime;
- Mitigation activities under the REDD mechanism (reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation) in developing countries ought to be eligible

within the framework of future incentive mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

Reaffirm our commitment to implementing

- Regional and international instruments relating to the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa;
- National sector policies integrating the REDD approach;
- Strategies which will contribute to global efforts to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases;

Decide to

1. Strengthen and expand the regional group of COMIFAC negotiators under the aegis of the ECCAS. This group of negotiators will comprise multidisciplinary experts;
2. Commission the regional group of experts/negotiators to draw up and/or firm up **a common vision and position** of the states of Central Africa on the technical aspects and the policies entailed by the Bali roadmap, coordinated by COMIFAC's Executive Secretariat and with the support of partners;
3. Request that UNEP, in line with the mandate extended by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, provide logistical and strategic support to the experts/negotiators from COMIFAC/ECCAS, and ensure that the Central African region is represented on the **High-Level Panel** responsible for conducting negotiations in the name of Africa;
4. Request that partners already working in this field support COMIFAC in the preparation and training of negotiators from Central Africa as well as facilitating exchanges of experience with other parts of the world;
5. Encourage the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) to support the efforts of the Congo Basin countries in the process of negotiations on a post-Kyoto climate regime;
6. Seek from the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) and other partners short-term funding for REDD pilot projects to develop technical capacities to measure and monitor carbon stocks in the region, in coordination with COMIFAC and with the support of the CBFF;

Call

On the United Nations systems, the NEPAD Secretariat, the African Union the European Union, the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, and the High-Level Panel to support the Congo Basin states in their efforts, among other matters, to become involved in issues relating to the management of **tropical forests** in post-Kyoto arrangements;

On other technical and financial partners to provide their manifold support for the implementation of this Declaration and to step up their efforts to support the cause of Central Africa in the establishment of a new post-Kyoto climate regime;

On his Excellency François Bozizé, President of the Central African Republic, host country, to present this Declaration to the African Union and to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Bangui, 10 September 2008